QA-24 McGinnes Farm Crumpton Private

circa 1820-1850

The gambrel roof house on the McGinnes farm was built in two sections, the western section dating to circa 1820-1850, and the east section dating to circa 1850. In the early 20th century the interior was partially renovated, and more recently a two story "tower" was added to accommodate modern plumbing facilities. The original house is typical of a house type widely used in this area, combining a hall-parlor plan with a 1 1/2 story gambrel roof form. Of particular note is a post-and-plank meathouse with unusual dovetailed corner posts similar to the corn crib at the Goodhand House (QA-10).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The McGinnes House is located on the north side of Maryland Route 544 approximately two miles southwest of Crumpton. The house sits on a low hill facing north across open farmland toward the Chester River.

The house was constructed in three different periods, and has been through several remodelings. The original house is frame, three bays wide and one-and-one half stories high with a gambrel roof. A single flush brick chimney is centered on each gable end, and a one story porch with Doric columns stretches across the south facade. house was probably built circa 1820-1840, and the porch was added in the early 20th century. Sometime in the mid-nineteenth century, the house was extended to the east. This later section simply carried the story-and-a-half, gambrel roof form three more bays. Finally, a small, two story frame addition was made to the center of the north facade of the original house in the 20th century. This addition was made to facilitate a pump room and a modern bathroom. It is of particular interest because it bears a striking resemblance to a stair

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION

tower, a feature occasionally found on 17th and early
18th century houses. The resemblance is coincidence,
however, as the addition is clearly modern in construction,
and no traces are evident of an earlier structure.

The principal facade of the original house faces south, toward the road. The door is located in the center bay, and is flanked by large two-over-two windows. Three shed roof dormers with two-over-two sash are symmetrically arranged on this facade.

Centered on the west gable is a flush brick chimney with the chimney shaft exposed up to the first floor eave. There is a two-over-two window to the right of the chimney on the first floor.

Both the chimney and the brick foundation are stuccoed over.

The north facade has been interrupted by the later two-story addition. It would appear that the fenestration was also changed at that time. There are two two-over-two windows to the left of the "tower", and a door and a window to the right. The addition has a hip roof, with one two-over-two window on the second floor of the north facade, and a door at ground level on the east facade.

CONTINUATION SHEET 7.2 DESCRIPTION

The story-and-a-half addition made to the east gable of the original house is three bays wide, with a door in the center bay of each facade flanked by two-over-two windows. There are two shed roof dormers with two-over-two sash on each facade. A brick interior stove chimney rises at the center of the east gable. There is a one story porch across the north facade of the addition, and a hooded entrance cover over the door in the south facade. This section of the house rests on a concrete block foundation.

The entire house is covered with plain horizontal weatherboard siding, and the seams between the successive additions are not expressed. A plain box cornice is carried across both facades. The roof is asphault shingle.

The original house has a hall-parlour plan, with the smaller parlour to the west, and the hall to the east. A late 19th or early 20th century closed string stair with square newels and ballusters rises along the west wall of the east room to a landing along the north wall. A door leads from the landing to the second floor of the north addition.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION

The west room is heated by a fireplace on the gable wall, which retains the original mantel, with paneled pilasters surmounted by paneled blocks supporting a shelf with Greek ovolo moldings.

The east room also has a fireplace on the gable wall, but the mantel is early 20th century, with dark oak graining and two shelves setting off a mirrored overmantel. A door to the right of the fireplace leads to the east addition.

The second floor of the original house consists of a center stair hall flanked by a room on the west and a short hall and chamber to the east. The hall runs along the south wall, and leads to the second floor of the east addition. Both chambers are heated by small fireplaces.

The east addition consists of two rooms on each floor, with the larger east room on the first floor serving as a kitchen. An enclosed winder stair in the northeast corner rises to the second floor. The rooms in this part of the house are very plain, and only the east room on each floor was heated, using wood stoves.

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BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This small frame dwelling is typical of a house type that was widely used in this area during the early nineteenth century, combining a hall-parlour plan with a story-and-a-half gambrel roof form. Examples of this building type can be found as early as the mid-18th century. The majority of examples, however, appear to date to the period 1820-1850, and the McGinnes House can be considered an example of this latter group. The frame addition to the east was made at an early date, probably no later than circa 1850, and stands in contrast to the two story, pitched roof additions commonly constructed after the Civil War.

The post-and-plank smokehouse adjacent to the house is of particular interest. Although approximately two dozen examples of post-and-plank construction have been recorded in Tidewater

CONTINUATION SHEET

8.1 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Maryland, this is only the second example in which the planks are secured using a dovetail joint rather than the more common mortise-and-tenon joint.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA	
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust

The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 267-1438





Mary McCarthy Spring/Summer 2003 Digital color photo on file at MHT





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